

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended):

An apparatus for supplying and wrapping elongate articles with labels, and capable of handling elongate articles for wrapping a label thereabout, said labels having an adhesively coated side, said elongate articles each having a peripheral surface, said apparatus including:

a label roller assembly for supplying labels to said apparatus;

a rotatable puck mechanism, said puck mechanism having an interrupted circumferential surface wall at least partially surrounding a cavity, and at least one resilient wing member coupled to said circumferential wall, said wing member extending into said cavity;

means for rotating said puck mechanism;

means for transporting at least one of said labels toward an interruption in said puck mechanism circumferential surface wall; and

means for transporting said peripheral surface of said elongate article through said interruption in said puck mechanism circumferential surface wall.

Claim 2 (currently amended):

The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for transporting said peripheral surface of said elongate object comprises a gripping mechanism, said gripping mechanism arranged to receive one of said elongate articles and guide said one of said elongate articles toward said interruption in said rotatable puck mechanism circumferential surface wall; and further including means for driving said gripping mechanism.

Claim 3 (original):

The apparatus of claim 1 further including at least one label sensor device.

Claim 4 (currently amended):

A label applicator apparatus for receiving a label from a roll and applying the label to an elongate article, said label having a first side and a second side, said second side being coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, said apparatus comprising:

a label roller assembly for supplying labels to said apparatus;

at least one gripper element for grasping and moving said elongate article;

means for driving said gripper element;

a rotatable puck mechanism, said puck mechanism having an interrupted circumferential ~~surface for receiving~~ wall at least partially surrounding a cavity adapted to receive at least a portion of said elongate object, and at least one resilient wing member coupled to said circumferential wall, said wing member extending into said cavity; and

means for rotating said puck mechanism,

said at least one gripper element being movable between a first position and a second position, said elongate article passing through an interruption in said puck mechanism circumferential ~~surface~~ wall when said gripper element moves from said first position to said second position.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

A labeling apparatus in which pressure sensitive adhesively backed labels which are releasably adhered to a backing strip are each respectively attached to an elongate object, the apparatus including:

a label roller assembly for supplying said labels and adhered backing strip;

label guide means for moving said labels through said apparatus;

a label stripping assembly for removing said labels from said backing strip;

a puck assembly, said puck assembly including a puck member having an interrupted outer circumferential surface of a circumferential wall at least partially surrounding a cavity, and at least one resilient wing member coupled to said circumferential wall, said wing member extending into said cavity;

a gripper assembly for grasping and moving an elongate object through an interruption in said puck mechanism outer circumferential surface; and

a take-up roll for receiving said backing strip.

Claim 6 (currently amended):

The apparatus of claim 5 wherein at least a portion of said interruption in said puck member outer circumferential surface is covered by a spring ~~loaded~~ biased, hingedly mounted entrance door.

Claim 7 (withdrawn):

A method of attaching a label to an elongate object including:

providing at least one label having an adhesive backing and liner;
partially removing the liner from the label so as to expose a predetermined portion of the label adhesive backing;
providing an elongate article to be labeled;
moving the elongate article toward the exposed portion of the label adhesive backing;
engaging a surface of the elongate article with the exposed portion of the label adhesive backing;
providing a puck assembly having a cavity, said cavity including a pair of wing members, said wing members being normally biased towards one another;
moving the engaged surface of the elongate article and attached label into the puck cavity and between the normally biased wing members;
rotating the puck assembly and wing members around the elongate article and attached label, thereby securing the label entirely around the diameter of the elongate article; and
removing the elongate article and secured label from the puck cavity.

Claim 8 (withdrawn):

A puck assembly for use in a label applicator apparatus, said assembly including:
a puck element having an interrupted circumferential surface and an outer edge;
a puck plate, said puck plate being mounted to said puck element on said outer edge;
a puck mount plate, said puck mount plate defining a relatively flat planar surface having a first side and a second side and oppositely disposed arm portions; and
means for rotating said puck assembly.

Claim 9 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said puck mount plate includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced bearing members.

Claim 10 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said circumferential surface includes a toothed marginal edge portion, and wherein said means for rotating includes a belt having a notched surface, said notched surface being adapted to engage said toothed marginal edge portion.

Claim 11 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said oppositely disposed arm portions define a generally c-shaped central aperture.

Claim 12 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said interrupted circumferential surface defines an opening to provide entrance into a cavity, said cavity being provided with a pair of complementary wing members, each of said wing members defining two oppositely disposed arm members and defining an obtuse angle between said arm members.

Claim 13 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 12 wherein each of said arm members includes a respective first end, each of said respective first ends being pivotally mounted to said puck member.

Claim 14 (withdrawn):

The puck assembly of claim 12 wherein said wing members are normally biased toward one another.

Claim 15 (withdrawn):

A combination puck and gripper assembly for use in a label applicator apparatus, said assembly including:

a puck subassembly including a rotatable puck element having an interrupted circumferential surface and an outer edge; a puck plate, said puck plate being mounted to said puck element on said outer edge; a puck mount plate, said puck mount plate defining a relatively flat planar surface having a first side and a second side and oppositely disposed arm portions; means for rotating said puck assembly;

a gripper subassembly including at least one gripper element, said at least one gripper element being movable from a first position to a second position relative to said puck subassembly; at least one pair of supporting jaw members, said at least one pair of jaw members supported by said at least one gripper element; means for moving said at least one gripper element from said first position to said second position.

Claim 16 (new):

The apparatus of claim 1, said at least one wing member being movably biased towards said interruption.

Claim 17 (new):

The apparatus of claim 1, said puck mechanism comprising two resilient wing members coupled to said circumferential wall, said wing members extending into said cavity.

Claim 18 (new):

The apparatus of claim 17, said wing members being coupled to said circumferential wall on opposite sides of said interruption.

Claim 19 (new):

The apparatus of claim 18, said wing members being coupled to said circumferential wall at points substantially equidistant from said interruption.

Claim 20 (new):

The apparatus of claim 1, said at least one wing member comprising:
a first arm having a first arm first end coupled to said circumferential wall and a first arm second end opposite said first end; and
a second arm having a second arm first end coupled to said first arm second end at an obtuse angle.

Claim 21 (new):

The apparatus of claim 20, said first and second arms being substantially planar.

Claim 22 (new):

The apparatus of claim 20, said wing member second arm further comprising:
a free-floating second arm second end opposite said second arm first end.

Claim 23 (new):

The apparatus of claim 20, said first arm first end being pivotally coupled to said circumferential wall.

Claim 24 (new):

The apparatus of claim 2, said gripping mechanism adapted for linear reciprocating movement.

Claim 25 (new):

The apparatus of claim 6, said entrance door being hingedly mounted to said puck mechanism.